

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A messaging method comprising, in combination:

maintaining at an instant messaging (IM) network server a registration record indicating that a second station is available to receive messages, but pointing to an IM client proxy address as an address to which messages destined for the second station should be sent;

5 a ~~machine~~ the IM client proxy receiving a first message provided by a first station and destined for second station;

the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy converting the first message to an SMS message and sending the SMS message to the second station;

10 the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy receiving a spoken response message from the second station; and

the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy sending the spoken response message to the first station.

2. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first message defines a return ID associated with the first station, the messaging method further comprising:

5 in response to the first message, the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy storing a correlation between the return ID and the second station;

when the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy receives the spoken response message from the second station, the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy determining the return ID based on the correlation; and

the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy using the return ID to direct the spoken response message to the first station.

3. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the return ID comprises a network address of the first station.

4. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the network address of the first station comprises an IP address.

5. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 4, wherein storing a correlation between the return ID and the second station comprises storing a data record including an indication of the return ID and an indication of the second station.

6. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the indication of the second station comprises a mobile identification number of the second station.

7. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

the ~~machine~~-IM client proxy providing in the SMS message a callback number pointing to a port at the ~~machine~~IM client proxy;

5 the ~~machine~~-IM client proxy receiving a call to the callback number from the second station; and

wherein, receiving a spoken response message from the second station comprises receiving the spoken response message via the call to the callback number.

8. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second station comprises a mobile station.

9. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second station comprises a wireless telephone.

10. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second station comprises a computer with a wireless modem.

11. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
the first station comprises a computer terminal on a packet switched network;
the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy is also on the packet switched network; and
receiving the first message comprises receiving a packet sequence carrying the first message.

12. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first message comprises a text string

13. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein converting the message to an SMS message comprises extracting a text string from the message and inserting the text string as payload in an IS-41 SMDPP message.

14. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy recording the spoken response in a compressed audio

file, wherein sending the spoken response message as at least part of a response message to the first station comprises sending the compressed audio file as at least part of the response message.

15. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 14, wherein sending the spoken response message comprises sending a packet sequence representing payload, the payload comprising the compressed audio file.

16. (Original) A messaging method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the compressed audio file comprises a WAV file.

17. (Currently amended) A messaging method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second station is a mobile station, the method further comprising, in combination:

the ~~machine~~-IM client proxy receiving an indication of a location of the mobile station;
and

5 the ~~machine~~-IM client proxy sending to the first station, together with the spoken response message, an indication of the location of the mobile station,

whereby, the first station may present, together with the spoken response message, an indication of the location of the mobile station.

18. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating communication between a first terminal and a second terminal, the method comprising, in combination:

at an IM server, maintaining a registration record indicating that the second terminal is available to receive messages, but pointing to a proxy address defined by an IM client proxy as an address to which messages destined for the second terminal should be sent;

receiving at ~~a machine~~ the proxy address a first message provided by the first terminal, the message comprising (i) a return address associated with the first terminal, (ii) a destination address associated with the second terminal, and (iii) payload;

the ~~machine~~ IM client proxy recording a correlation between the return address and the second terminal;

the IM client proxy ~~machine~~ sending at least a portion of the payload to the second terminal;

the IM client proxy ~~machine~~ thereafter receiving from the second terminal a response message, and, based on the correlation, the machine identifying the return address; and

the IM client proxy ~~machine~~ sending to the return address, for receipt by the first terminal, a second message embodying the response message.

19. (Currently amended) A wireless messaging method comprising:

at a machine, registering a mobile station as being available to receive a message;

maintaining a registration record at the machine indicating that the mobile station is available to receive messages, but pointing to a proxy address of the machine as an address to which messages destined for the mobile station should be sent;

receiving at ~~a~~ the machine a first message provided by ~~a~~ the first terminal and destined for the mobile station, the first message comprising a payload;

storing a data record that correlates the mobile station with the first terminal;

sending the payload to the mobile station, whereby the payload may be presented to a

10 user at the mobile station;

establishing a call connection between the mobile station and the machine;

via the call connection, receiving a spoken response message from a user at the mobile
station; and

sending to the first terminal a message embodying the spoken response message.

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20. (Currently amended) A wireless messaging method as claimed in claim 19,
wherein registering a mobile station as being available to receive a message comprises
registering a user at the mobile station as being available to receive a message.

21. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating communication between a first
machine and a second machine, wherein at least the second machine comprising comprises a
mobile station, the method comprising, in combination:

sending a registration message to a messaging server so as to register the second machine

5 as being available to receive messages, the registration message providing (a) an ID associated

with the second machine and (b) a network address associated with a third machine, ~~whereby~~

wherein the message server maintains a registration record indicating that the second machine is

available to receive messages but pointing to the network address associated with the third

machine as an address to which messages destined for the second machine should be sent;

10 ~~messages destined for the second machine will be sent to the third machine;~~

receiving at the third machine a set of data packets representing a message provided by the first machine, the data packets defining at least (i) a return address associated with the first machine and (ii) payload;

the third machine generating an SMS message carrying at least a portion of the payload
15 and including in the SMS message a callback number associated with the third machine;

the third machine sending the SMS message to the second machine;

the third machine thereafter receiving a call placed from the second machine to the callback number and, via the call, receiving a spoken response message from a user at the second machine; and

20 the third machine sending the spoken response message to the return address, for receipt by a user at the first station.

22. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the ID identifies a user at the second machine and is thereby associated with the second machine.

23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the ID identifies the second machine.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the network address associated with the third machine comprises an IP address.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the return address associated with the first machine comprises a network address of the first machine.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the return address associated with the first machine comprises an IP address.

27. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the payload destined for the second machine comprises a text message.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the third machine storing a data record correlating the return address with a messaging key that is based at least in part on a network address of the second machine,

5 | ~~whereby~~wherein when the third machine receives the call from the second machine, the third machine may identify the network address of the second machine and, based at least on the network address of the second machine, retrieve the return address.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network address of the second machine comprises a directory number.

30. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising, in combination: the third machine storing a data record correlating the return address with a messaging key that is based at least in part on a network address of the second machine; and

5 | when the third machine receives the call from the second machine, the third machine identifying the network address of the second machine and, based at least in part on the network address of the second machine, retrieving the return address.

31. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the payload comprises a text message.

32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein generating the SMS message comprises generating an IS-41 SMDPP message carrying at least a portion of the text message.

33. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the third machine sending the SMS message to the second machine comprises the third machine sending the SMS message to a message center for transmission to the second machine.

34. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising recording the spoken response message as a compressed audio file.

35. (Original) A method as claimed in claim in 34, wherein the compressed audio file comprises a WAV file.

36. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein sending the spoken response message to the return address comprises generating a set of data packets representing the spoken response message, and sending the data packets into a network.

37. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein sending the spoken response message to the return address comprises streaming the spoken response to the return address.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Original) A wireless instant messaging (IM) system comprising, in combination:
an IM server coupled with a network;

an IM client proxy coupled with the network, the IM client proxy defining an IM client proxy address;

a mobile station;

the IM server maintaining a registration record indicating that the mobile station is available to receive messages but pointing to the IM client proxy address as an address to which messages destined for the mobile station should be sent;

the IM client proxy receiving from the network a message provided by a sender on the network and destined for the mobile station, and the IM client proxy responsively sending the message to the mobile station;

the mobile station receiving the message sent from the IM client proxy and presenting the message to a user;

the mobile station placing a call to the IM proxy;

the IM proxy receiving, via the call, a spoken response message; and

the IM client proxy sending the spoken response message to the sender on the network.

40. (New) A wireless instant messaging (IM) system comprising, in combination:

an IM server coupled with a network;

an IM client proxy coupled with the network, the IM client proxy defining an IM client proxy address;

the IM server being configured to maintain a registration record indicating that a mobile station is available to receive messages, but pointing to the IM client proxy address as an address to which messages destined for the mobile station should be sent;

the IM client proxy being configured to (a) receive from the network a first message provided by a sender on the network and destined for the mobile station, (b) send at least a portion of the first message to the mobile station in response to receiving the first message, (c) receive, via a call, a spoken response message from the mobile station, and (d) send the spoken response message to the sender on the network.

41. (New) The wireless IM system of claim 40, wherein the IM client proxy is further configured to (e) store a correlation between a return ID of the first message and the second station and (f) in response to receiving the spoken response message, determine the return ID based on the correlation.

42. (New) The wireless IM system of claim 40, wherein the IM client proxy is further configured to (g) convert a payload of the first message to an SMS message and (h) include a IM client proxy callback number with the SMS message, wherein the at least a portion of the first message sent to the mobile station is the SMS message, and wherein the call is a call to the callback number.

43. (New) The wireless IM system of claim 40, wherein being configured to send the spoken response message to the sender comprises being configured to send a compressed audio file to the sender.

44. (New) The wireless IM system of claim 40, wherein being configured to receive a spoken response message comprises:

being configured to establish a call connection between the mobile station and the IM client proxy; and

being configured to receive a spoken message from a user at the mobile station via the call connection.

45. (New) The wireless IM system of claim 40 further comprising a mobile positioning center for providing an indication of a location of the mobile station, wherein the IM client proxy is further configured to (i) send the indication of the location of the mobile station to the sender, together with the spoken response message.

46. (New) the messaging method of claim 1, wherein the spoken response message is received in response to the SMS message being sent to the second station.